GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4595
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
LIFT IRRIGATION CENTRES
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of lift irrigation centres in working condition in the country particularly in tribal areas as on date, location-wise;

(b) whether more than fifty percent of lift irrigation centres are not working properly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to supply water to irrigated areas and tackle the drought situation in Gujarat?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Total number of lift irrigation schemes (surface lift in minor irrigation) in working condition is compiled under Minor Irrigation Census. As per 2nd Minor Irrigation Census there were 3.7 lakh lift irrigation schemes in the country in 1993-94 (excluding Gujarat and Maharashtra where census could not be completed by the states). Information on number of schemes in tribal areas is not collected under the Census.

(b) 1.6 lakh schemes out of the 3.7 lakh schemes (44%) were in under-utilized conditions.

(c) The reasons for under-utilization of schemes are less water availability/discharge, inadequate power supply, mechanical breakdown and various other reasons.

(d) Taking up steps to tackle drought situation is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Central Government supplements these efforts through financial and operational support. For handling drought a mechanism is in place in Ministry of Agriculture to keep continuous surveillance on development of early warning symptom and to sound alerts wherever necessary. In order to tide over the water scarcity in Gujarat State, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been handing over the successful exploratory wells constructed by them to the State Government. Government of India is also promoting the rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water for which technical assistance is provided by CGWB. Ministry of water Resources has been advising the States to make judicious use of water available in their reservoirs.